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Message Text

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14-11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /060 W
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R 070948Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1396
INFO DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3840

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
SUBJ: INSIDER'S VIEW OF THE DEMOCRAT'S FALL

REF: A. BANGKOK 3788; BANGKOK 3784

SUMMARY: A RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT TOLD ONE OF OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS MARCH 6 ABOUT THE CONSERVATIVES' PREPARATION FOR THE DEFEAT OF THE DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN CABINET ON THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TAKEN THAT DAY. HE AGAIN REAFFIRMED THAT THE CONSERVATIVES INTEND TO NOMINATE KHUKRIT PRAMOT AS

PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO SPECULATED ON CABINET MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PHARADA BURNASIRI (CHIEF, FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT) TOLD ONE OF OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS MARCH 6 THAT, WHILE VISITING THE HOUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY LEADER THAWIT KLINPRATHUM MARCH 5, HE HELPED MIMEOGRAPH COPIES OF A LIST CONTAINING 144 NAMES OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO WERE PLEDGED TO VOTE AGAINST THE DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN CABINET THE FOLLOWING DAY. PHARADA SAID THAT EIGHT OR NINE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY (SAP) PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE ALSO AT THAWIT'S HOUSE MARCH 5.

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2. PHARADA ALSO RELATED THAT PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT ASKED HIM MARCH 5 TO PREPARE A LETTER NOMINATING A NEW

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PRIME MINISTER FOR SUBMISSION TO THE KING. THE NAME WAS LEFT BLANK. PRASIT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT, IF THE SITUATION AND PROPRIETY PERMITTED, A NEW NOMINATION COULD GO FORWARD TO THE KING WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

3. PHARADA SPECULATED THAT SOME OF THE NEW CABINET MIGHT BE:

KHUKRIT PRAMOT (SOCIAL ACTION) PRIME MINISTER

PRAMAN ADIREKSAN (THAI NATION) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE

NIPHON SASITHON (SOCIAL JUSTICE) MINISTEROF INTERIOR

COLONEL PRAKOP PRAYUNPHOKARAT (THAI NATION) MINISTER OF DEFENSE

CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN (THAI NATION) MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SIRI SIRIYOTHIN THAI NATION) MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

BUNCHU ROTCHANASATHIAN (SOCIAL ACTION) MINISTER OF FINANCE

4. PHARADA SAID THAT THAWIT KLINPRATHUM IS UNDECIDED ABOUT ACCEPTING A CABINET POSITION. PHARADA ADVISED THAWIT NOT TO DO SO AT THIS TIME.

5. COMMENT: THE CONSERVATIVE FORCES WHICH UNSEATED THE DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN CABINET SEEM READY TO MOVE FORWARD AND ESTABLISH THEIR OWN CABINET. THE CONSERVATIVES APPEAR ORGANIZED TO THE POINT OF POSSIBLY FULFILLING THAI NATION PARTY LEADER PRAMAN'S PREDICTION, CARRIED IN THE BANGKOK PRESS MARCH 7, THAT HE WOULD SET UP A GOVERNMENT WITHIN A WEEK. BARGAINING OVER CABINET POSITION, HOWEVER, COULD WELL DELAY THE PROCESS. WHEN THE CONSERVATIVES FORM THEIR CABINET AND SEEK A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THEY COULD HAVE PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE DEMOCRAT- SOCIAL AGRARIAN COALITION.
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